

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) Process for controlling delivery of digital works across a communication channel such as the internet wherein there is to be paid for the content of said digital works, wherein the process is executable on a server computer and a client computer, said process comprising the steps of:
 - a) configuring a set of negotiation steps in which the client and the server agree to and configure for delivery of the content of a digital work between the server and the client, via a regular flow of packets;
 - b) creating at the server and executing a the regular flow of packets lasting for some period of time, wherein the packet size is less than small with respect to the total size of said digital work, of said content from the server to the client using a transmission or transport protocol, wherein the client is requested to acknowledge the received content packets;
 - c) initiation of a return traffic of acknowledgement codes (ACKs) by the client to the server wherein a payment token is associated with each acknowledgement code or with a number of acknowledgement codes;
 - d) validation by the server that each acknowledgement code requested of the client is received by the server;
 - e) continuation of the flow of said content by the server only if the acknowledgement codes requested of the client are received as specified by the server;
 - f) accumulation of the payment tokens received from the client in a pay-for-each-packet-received-as-acknowledged-by-the-client mode of operation; and

g) arrangement of billing of and payment by the client for all received packets on the basis of at least said accumulated payment tokens.

2. (Previously Presented) Process for controlling delivery of digital works across a communications channel according to claim 1, wherein in step (c) or step (e) acknowledgement by the client is associated with at least one packet of the forwarding flow from the server to the client.

3. (Previously Presented) Process for controlling delivery of digital works across a communications channel according to claim 1, wherein in step (e) continuation of the flow of packets with content by the server occurs wherein a certain number of packets may be transmitted while a number of acknowledgement codes in transit less than or equal to another pre-determined number of acknowledgement codes encompassed in the credit window have not yet been received by the server.

4. (Previously Presented) Process for controlling delivery of digital works across a communications channel according to claim 3, wherein the size of said credit window is adaptable to the number of acknowledgement codes received from the client.

5. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 1 for use in conducting business operations or commercial transactions, comprising regulation of payment based on received return traffic.

6. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 5 for use in conducting business operations or commercial transactions, wherein in addition billing is dependent on the transmission rate and/or on the length of the transmission session and/or on the loss rate of the transmitted digital packets.
7. (Previously Presented) A method of sending and/or receiving packets by a system comprising a server and a client, said method comprising one or more steps including at least step (c) of a process according to claim 1.
8. (Previously Presented) A method of sending and/or receiving packets by a server, comprising one or more steps including at least step (c) or step (e) of a process according to claim 1.
9. (Previously Presented) A method of sending and/or receiving packets by a client, comprising one or more steps including at least step (c) or step (e) of a process according to claim 1.
10. (Previously Presented) A computer programme stored on a computer readable medium comprising instructions, which instructions include at least code defining the processes or functions to be performed with respect to acknowledgement codes and payment tokens associated with said acknowledgement codes, for causing a programmable processing apparatus having or being connected to transmission hardware to become operable to execute the method according to claim 7.

11. (Previously Presented) A computer programme stored on a computer readable medium comprising instructions, which instructions include at least code defining the processes or functions to be performed with respect to acknowledgement codes and payment tokens associated with said acknowledgement codes, for causing a programmable processing apparatus having or being connected to transmission hardware to become operable to execute the server-related steps of the method according to claim 8.
12. (Previously Presented) A computer programme stored on a computer readable medium comprising instructions, which instructions include at least code defining the processes or functions to be performed with respect to acknowledgement codes and payment tokens associated with said acknowledgement codes, for causing a programmable processing apparatus having or being connected to transmission hardware to become operable to execute the client-related steps of the method according to claim 9.
13. (Cancelled).
14. (Previously Presented) Computer programme according to claim 10 with or in a transmissible carrier such as an electrical or optical signal.
15. (Cancelled).
16. (Previously Presented) A system for controlling delivery of digital works across a communication channel such as the internet wherein there is to be paid for the content of said

digital works, wherein the system is operable on a server computer and a client (requester) computer, wherein the system comprises:

one or more repositories for storing and exchanging digital works, each of said digital repositories comprising:

storage means for storing digital works and usage rights attached to said digital works; transaction processing means having a requester mode of operation for requesting access to a digital work, said request specifying a usage right, to which usage right is attached a payment token, and a server mode of operation for processing requests to access said requested digital work based on said usage right specified in said request and usage rights attached to said digital work; and

transmission means for transmission of the digital work from the server to the requester, said transmission means operable under a protocol suitable for carrying out the process according to claim 1.